

**Letter for Constituents to Send to State Representatives**  
(May be used online or hard copy. Address block is in proper protocol for either state senator or delegate.)

Date

The Honorable John Doe  
[NAME OF STATE] Senate OR [HOUSE OF DELEGATES *or* ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF  
{NAME}]  
City, State ZIP

Dear Mr. Doe:

I write to ask you to support [SPECIFIC LEGISLATION], which gives state employees release time from their jobs, allowing them to volunteer as mentors to young people in our [STATE].

I urge you to support mentoring because it works. In her book, *Stand by Me: The Risks and Rewards of Mentoring Today's Youth*, Dr. Jean Rhodes of the University of Massachusetts concludes that mentors influence young people in three important ways, by: 1) enhancing social skills and emotional well-being, 2) improving cognitive skills through dialogue and listening and 3) serving as a role model and advocate. And studies by the Carnegie Corporation note that when asked what teens wanted most in their free time, one of the most frequent responses was "long talks with trusting and trustworthy adults who know a lot about the world and who like young people."

Nationally, there just over 15 million young people who need mentors, but mentoring organizations simply do not have the resources needed to expand greatly. Release time would increase the number of adults able to mentor, thus enabling more local mentoring programs to serve more children.

And more adults would like to be mentors. In 2002, a national mentoring poll conducted by MENTOR/National Mentoring Partnership showed that 57 million adults would consider becoming mentors if they had access to an array of support services *and had the ability within their schedules to commit*. (To view the poll online, visit [www.mentoring.org/poll](http://www.mentoring.org/poll).)

In my state — [NAME OF STATE] — [INSERT STATISTICS AND/OR GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE NEED FOR MENTORING.]

I hope you will support [SPECIFIC LEGISLATION] when it comes up for a vote. You would be providing critical resources needed to help us bring caring adults into the lives of more young people and, thus, securing a more productive community for us all.

Thank you for your consideration of my request, and I look forward to hearing from you on this issue.

Sincerely,

Name  
Title